

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TRUDEAU THREATENS UNITALERAL REPATRIATION OF THE
CONSTITUTION, REFUSES AID QUEBEC FINANCE OLYMPIC
DEFICIT.

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU ON MARCH 5 IN QUEBEC CITY ELOQUENTLY DEFENDED CANADIAN UNITY AND BICULTURALISM IN THE CAPITAL OF QUEBEC NATIONALISM AND FRANCOPHONE PARTISANISM. IN A STYLE SELDOM SEEN OUTSIDE OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, TRUDEAU ARGUED STRONGLY FOR IMMEDIATE, UNCONDITIONAL REPATRIATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, OPPOSED ANY FEDERAL FINANCING OF THE OLYMPIC DEBT AND CRITIZIED THE LETTER - BUT NOT THE SPIRIT - OF BILL 22 (MAKING FRENCH OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF QUEBEC). AFTER A PRIVATE LUNCHEON WITH BOURASSA, THE PM ADDRESSED OPENING OF CONGRESS OF QUEBEC BRANCH OF HIS FEDERAL LIBERAL PARTY IN THE EVENING. IN HIS COMMENTS TO PRESS AFTER HIS MEETING WITH BOURASSA, TRUDEAU STATED HIS CASE SO UNEQUIVOCALLY AND WITH SUCH STRONG SARCASM THAT LE JOURNAL DE QUEBEC, SUMMING UP PRESS REACTION, DESCRIBED RESULT OF MEETING WITH HEADLINE: OPEN QUOTES BOURASSA DECULOTTE. CLOSE QUOTES (LOSES HIS PANTS). END SUMMARY.

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WM IN BOTH SPEECH AND STATEMENTS TO PRESS, TRUDEAU INDICATED

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAY ACT ON HIS OWN IF PROVINCES DO NOT AGREE TO REPATRIATION FORMULA WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. PM PROMISED FINAL DECISION WITHIN A MONTH AND RULED OUT A FEDERAL - PROVINCIAL PREMIERS CONFERENCE UNLESS THERE IS PRIOR AGREEMENT TO BRING BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT BACK TO CANADA. IN HIS SPEECH, TRUDEAU USED WIT AND SARCASM TO MAKE POINT THAT IT WAS CANADA S CONSTITUTION AND TO ASK IF QUEBEC NATIONALISTS - OR THE TORIES FOR THAT MATTER - WANTED IT TO REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE QUEEN AND HAROLD WILSON. HE ATTEMPTED TO MINIMIZE FEARS OF QUEBEC OFFICIALS THAT FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL RIGHTS COULD BE IN TROUBLE AFTER DEPARTURE OF OPEN QUOTES TRUDEAU AND HIS GANG CLOSE QUOTES BY POINTING TO YOUTH IN THE AUDIENCE AND SAYING THAT THEY WOULD REPLACE THE CURRENT FRENCH-POWER TEAM. HE ADDED THAT , IF HE SHOULD BE CRITICIZED RETROACTIVELY FOR WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO, HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO FIGHT THE NEXT ELECTION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE CONSTITUTION REMAIN IN LONDON.

3. TRUDEAU FLATLY REFUSED TO CONSIDER QUEBEC S REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL 200 MILLION DOLLARS IN FEDERAL AID FOR THE OLYMPIC DEFICIT. HE TOLD QUEBEC LIBERALS - SOME OF WHOM FAVOR BOURASSA S DEMAND FOR FEDERAL HELP AND MAY BRING THE ISSUE UP IN CONFERENCE WORKING SESSIONS - THAT, AS PM OF ALL CANADA, HE COULD NOT FAVOR PROJECTS OF ONE AREA AND NOT THOSE OF OTHERS. HE POINTED OUT THAT OLYMPICS ARE NOT PRIORITY FEDERAL PROJECT. THEREFORE, SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN LARGE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES AT EXPENSE OF HIGHER PRIORITY PROJECTS ELSEWHERE IN CANADA. IN DEFENDING HIS DECISION, HE TOLD AUDIENCE THAT HE HAD OBTAINED SIGNED LETTERS FROM BOURASSA, MAYOR DRAPEAU AND COJO PRESIDENT ROUSSEAU THAT THE GOC WOULD NOT BE CALLED ON TO PAY ANY DEFICIT. AS IT NOW STANDS, TRUDEAU ESTIMATED FEDERAL OLYMPIC EXPENSES FOR SECURITY FORCES, TELEVISION FACILITIES, SPECIAL MINTINGS, ETC. WILL BE 150 MILLION DOLLARS. COJO INVITED THE QUEEN AS HEAD OF STATE TO OPENTHE GAMES HE SAID AFTER CONFERING WITH HIMSELF, BOURASSA AND OPEN QUOTES EVEN CLOSE QUOTES MAYOR DRAPEAU.

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RM TRUDEAU MOVED TO PLEA FOR BICULTURALISM AND A SENSE OF UNITY IN THE COUNTRY VIA COMMENTS ON BILL 22. SPEAKING IN ENGLISH, HE STATED THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW WAS GOOD AND AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE ASSERTION OF FRENCH CANADIAN SELF-CONFIDENCE, - A DESIRE TO LIVE AND WORK IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE JUSTIFIABLE FEARS AMONG ENGLISH-QUEBECKERS AND OTHER ENGLISH-CANADIANS

OVER BOTH BILL 22 AND FEDERAL BILINGUALISM. HE REGRETTED SOME FAULTS IN BILL 22 INCLUDING POLITICAL OPEN QUOTES STUPIDITY CLOSE QUOTES (AS SEEN BY FEDERAL LIBERALS) OF CALLING FRENCH OFFICIAL LANGUAGE INSTEAD OF MAIN LANGUAGE, PRINCIPLE LANGUAGE OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. HE SAID FEAR JUSTIFIED IF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ARE ENDANGERED. HE URGED QUEBEC ENGLISH-SPEAKERS TO HAVE PATIENCE SO THAT IMPERFECTIONS IN LETTER OF BILL 22 OR APPLICATION OF BILINGUALISM CAN BE WORKED OUT OVER TIME. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT A COUNTRY LIKE CANADA NEEDS WHAT PASCAL CALLED THE OPEN QUOTES SPIRIT OF FINESSE RATHER THAN THE SPIRIT OF GEOMETRY CLOSE QUOTES TO GOVERN ITSELF.

5. PREMIER BOURASSA WHEN ADVISED OF TRUDEAU S AFTERNOON COMMENTS TO PRESS - REMARKED THAT HE WAS SCEPTICAL OF TRUDEAU S PLAN TO REPATRIATE CONSTITUTION. HE SAID QUEBEC HAS ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS TO DECIDE ITS REACTION. WHILE PREFERRING TO AWAIT OPEN QUOTES OFFICIAL VIEW CLOSE QUOTES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HE REPEATED QUEBEC S HISTORIC POSITION DEMANDING PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT BEFORE ANY REPATRIATION. ASKED IF HE BELIEVES GOC HAS POWER TO REPATRIATE UNILATERALLY, BOURASSA REPLIED, OPEN QUOTES THAT IS HIS (TRUDEAU S) POINT OF VIEW. CLOSE QUOTES

6. COMMENT: TRUDEAU GAVE EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT PUBLIC PORTION HIS VISIT TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO WHOLE COUNTRY AS CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER. AS QUEBEC S NUMBER ONE FEDERALIST, HE MADE SPIRITED DEFENSE FOR PRESERVING UNITED AND BICULTURAL CANADA. BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE MISINTERPRETED QUEBECOIS AMBIVALENT HISTORIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN WESTMINSTER AS DISTINCT UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM THEIR CANADIAN ANGLOPHONES NEIGHBORS. SINCE QUEBEC ACT OF 1774, QUEBECOIS HAVE FREQUENTLY LOOKED TO WESTMINSTER TO PROTECT THEIR CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS FROM LOCAL ANGLOPHONES. QUEBECOIS SENTIMENT, AS REFLECTED IN BOURASSA GUARDED RESERVATIONS ON TRUDEAU UNILATERAL REPATRIATION REMARKS, LIKELY SUPPORT CONTINUED RESISTENCE TO REPATRIATION WITHOUT CLEAR CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC GARANTEES. NOT CLEAR TO US WHY TRUDEAU WAS SO BRUSQUE IN HIS PUBLIC TREATMENT OF BOURASSA ON OLYMPIC DEFICIT FINANCING. SOME OBSERVERS HAVE OPINED, IT WAS ATTEMPT DEMONSTRATE TO REST OF CANADA THAT HE CAN BE TOUGH WITH QUEBEC WHEN REQUIRED. COULD EQUALLY BE AIMED AT GIVING BOURASSA OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIS CRITICS THAT HE IS NOT IN TRUDEAU S HIP POCKET. MCNAMARA

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